MORE ABBA® GOLD

MORE ABBA HITS

ALSO AVAILABLE
THE ALBUMS :

RING RING

WATERLOO

ABBA

ARRIVAL

THE ALBUM

VOULEZ - VOUS

SUPER TROUPER

THE VISITORS

ABBA LIVE

ABBA GOLD

SOLO ALBUMS

AGNETHA FÄLTSKOG
WRAP YOUR ARMS
AROUND ME
EYES OF A WOMAN

FRIDA
SOMETHINGS GOING ON
SHINE

ON VIDEO

ABBA GOLD

MORE ABBA GOLD
VIDEO SELECTION

1. Summer Night City 3.28
2. Angeleyes 4.16
3. The Day Before You Came 5.47
4. Eagle 4.23
5. I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do 3.16
6. So Long 3.06
7. Honey Honey 2.53
8. The Visitors 4.27
9. Our Last Summer 4.19
10. On & On & On 3.38
11. Ring Ring 3.00
12. I Wonder (Departure) 4.34
13. Lovelight 3.18
14. Head Over Heels 3.45
15. When I Kissed The Teacher 3.00
16. I Am The City 4.00
17. Cassandra 4.50
18. Under Attack 3.44
19. When All Is Said And Done 3.16
20. The Way Old Friends Do 2.52

All songs written by Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus,
except 5, 7, 12 written by Benny Andersson, Björn Ulvaeus & Stig Anderson
11 written by Benny Andersson, Björn Ulvaeus, Stig Anderson, Neil Sedaka & Phil Cody
All titles produced by Benny Andersson & Björn Ulvaeus
Digitally re - mastered by Michael B. Tretow

1. ℗ 1978 2. ℗ 1979 3. ℗ 1982 4. ℗ 1977 5. ℗ 1975 6. ℗ 1974 7. ℗ 1974 8. ℗ 1981 9. ℗ 1980 10. ℗ 1980
11. ℗ 1973 12. ℗ 1977 13. ℗ 1979 14. ℗ 1981 15. ℗ 1976 16. ℗ 1993 17. ℗ 1982 18. ℗ 1982 19. ℗ 1981 20. ℗ 1980
Polar Music International AB

Arguably the major musical event of 1992/3 was the renaissance of ABBA, whose 'ABBA Gold - Greatest Hits' album topped the UK chart (and the charts of a dozen other countries), having sold a breathtaking four million copies worldwide in six months, and achieved platinum status in 20 countries. Not bad for a group that effectively went its separate ways ten years before . . . however, they are without any doubt among the ten most popular acts of the entire history of modern pop/rock music, and the fact that their time came round again in 1992 (just as it has for so many acts from the golden era of pop music) should cause no raising of eyebrows.

'ABBA Gold' included 19 of the best-loved ABBA hits, remastered by Michael B. Tretow, who engineered the original recordings. However, this of necessity excluded a substantial number of the group's classic tracks, and this companion volume, 'MORE ABBA GOLD', aims to provide further notable and well-loved examples of the ABBA phenomenon. Along with the many familiar international hits included here are several tracks which might easily have been chart successes had they been released in single form, and in one case, had it ever been released at all before.

'Ring Ring' was ABBA's first hit. While the quartet first emerged in Britain and America when they won the 1974 Eurovision Song Contest with 'Waterloo', they had already achieved success in other parts of the world – mainly in continental Europe – with a song intended to represent Sweden in the previous year's Eurovision competition, 'Ring Ring'. For reasons which are explained more fully in the 'ABBA Gold' package, their Eurovision triumph was delayed for a year, but never-theless, 'Ring Ring' became a monster hit all over Europe, reaching the Top 5 in Holland and later, the Top 3 in Australia. With songwriting assistance from famed American hitmaker Neil Sedaka and his partner, Phil Cody, 'Ring Ring' was the single that turned half the world on to ABBA. The other half followed after 'Waterloo' topped charts all over the world in 1974, and 'Ring Ring' was reissued in Britain as the follow-up hit to the Eurovision winner.

Agnetha by Agnetha

An early ABBA hit single in the United States was 'Honey Honey', which was a Top 3 hit in Germany, peaked within the Top 20 in Holland and reached the US Top 30, and was included on the group's 'Waterloo' album. Although it was never released as an ABBA 45 in Britain, the song, written by group members Benny Andersson and Björn Ulvaeus with lyrical assistance from their manager, Stig Anderson, reached the Top 10 of the UK singles chart in a version by Sweet Dreams, a duo who scored their only hit with the song. The original ABBA version is included here.

'So Long', ABBA's follow-up single to 'Ring Ring', was a hit in several countries including Germany, where it reached the Top 20.

Instantly recognisable as an ABBA classic from their early incarnation as a hit act, it has previously never achieved its just deserts in several parts of the world, but its inclusion here will hopefully change that. Next came 'I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do, I Do', a hit all over the world which reached the Top 3 in Australia and Holland, the Top 10 in Germany and the Top 20 in the US, and was an adventurous change of musical style. However, it was not a Top 10 hit in Britain, and its musical direction was not pursued again immediately by songwriters/producers Benny and Björn. Mention of its success in Australia is reason to note that at one time in 1976, ABBA enjoyed four Top 20 singles (one of them 'Ring Ring') and three Top 20 albums simultaneously.

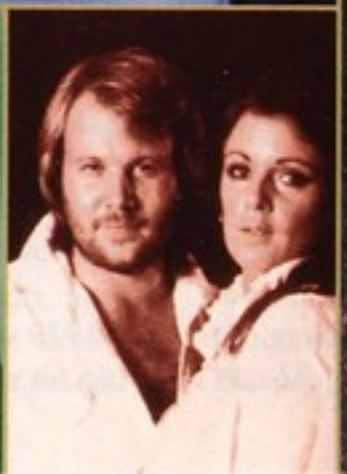
In November 1976 the eagerly anticipated album 'Arrival' was released. Reviewers were much more enthusiastic about 'Arrival' than they had been about either 'Abba' or 'Waterloo'. 'Dancing Queen' and 'That's Me' were familiar of course and other hits included the next two singles 'Money Money Money' and 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' – featured on 'Abba Gold'. Agnetha took the lead vocal on 'When I Kissed The Teacher' which was the opening track and is still one of Björn and Benny's favourite songs.

Fast forward to 1977, and 'ABBA – The Album'. This chart-topping epic included three songs from what was referred to as a "mini-musical", 'The Girl With The Golden Hair', the major song from which was the much loved 'Thank You For The Music'. However, another song with much to commend it from the same unfinished work (extracts from which were featured in the group's 1977 world tour) was "I Wonder (Departure)'. The opening track of 'ABBA – The Album' was also much acclaimed, although once again, it was not released as a single in every territory (although it was a Top 5 hit in Holland, made the German Top 20 and was very popular in several other countries, where it was released in an edited version, which is included here). This was 'Eagle', which was accompanied by a stunning video. It was felt at the time that this song was an oblique tribute to Californian country/rock group The Eagles, but it also paid tribute to the freedom enjoyed by the birds of prey from which the American group borrowed their name.

Benny by Benny

'Summer Night City' was somewhat of a departure for ABBA – for the first time, a potential hit single featured more prominent vocals by one of the male members of the group, in this case Björn Ulvaeus, who shared the track's lead vocals with Agnetha Fältskog and Anni Frid Lyngstad. The trademark ABBA sound was still evident, of course, and the single was a Top 5 hit in Britain and Germany during 1978, also charting strongly in Germany and especially Australia, where it reached the Top 3.

1979 was the year when ABBA released five big hit singles, all of which reached the Top 5



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of the British singles chart, although none made Number One. The first of these was 'Chiquitita', whose B-side, 'Lovelight', also became a much played ABBA favourite, but has never previously appeared on CD. Later that year came 'Voulez Vous', the group's fourth consecutive album to top the UK chart (which it entered at Number One). The album's title track was released as a single, as a double A-side with 'Angeleyes', both titles being listed in the UK chart, and while 'Voulez Vous' was included on 'ABBA Gold', Angeleyes', a Top 20 hit in Australia, was omitted due to the embarrassment of riches, and is another hit included here.

Björn by Björn

Many regard ABBA's penultimate original album, 'Super Trouper', as probably the group's finest achievement. Released at the end of 1980, it included their eighth and ninth Number One singles, 'The Winner Takes It All' and the title track, plus a number of other notable tracks, including 'Lay All Your Love On Me', released exclusively as a 12" single and at the time the highest ever placed single not available on regular 7" vinyl. Both this track and its original B-side, 'On And On And On', were sizeable hits in the US, where they were released separately and heavily dented the dance (or club) chart. 'On And On And On', which was a Top 3 hit in Australia, was also from the 'Super Trouper' album, as was 'Our Last Summer', a splendid song which boasts soaring harmonies in the style of The Mamas & Papas, a group to which ABBA was initially compared, but whose commercial achievements ABBA totally overshadowed. With a guitar solo of heroic proportions from Lasse Wellander, it was also released as the B-side of 'Thank You For The Music', a posthumous ABBA hit in late 1983. The final track on the 'Super Trouper' album was 'The Way Old Friends Do', a melodic and nostalgic masterpiece which is often regarded as a standard, because it is a song which is instantly familiar. It was released in single form for the first time at Christmas, 1992, and is included here by popular demand.

ABBA's final original album was 'The Visitors', released in 1981. The first hit single excerpted from the album was 'One Of Us' (included on 'ABBA Gold'), while the follow-up single coupled 'Head Over Heels' and the title track of the album, and was one of the group's last big hits. As well as the intrinsic quality which characterises all ABBA's work, the fairground styled backing supplied by Benny made 'Head Over Heels' a classic. The album which included both tracks entered the album charts in Belgium, Britain, Denmark, Holland and Sweden at Number One two months before the single was released, and no further singles were released in Britain from 'The Visitors'. By the time the album was completed, both couples in ABBA were divorced, although they continued to work together - (despite the fact that Benny and Björn had both remarried and within the first ten days of 1982 had become fathers again.) Another song on the album was 'When All Is

Said And Done', an anthem of resignation in the wake of a romance which has ended. This was widely interpreted as an accurate reflection of the sentiments of each of the quartet following the traumas of their divorces.

Released as a single in the US, it became ABBA's 13th single to reach the Top 30 of the 'Billboard' chart.

Even after that, the professional relationship continued through 1982, the year when a double album, 'The Singles – The First Ten Years', was released which marked the end of ABBA's professional life. As well as many hit singles from the group's golden years, it included two brand new tracks. 'The Day Before You Came' was released a month before the double album, and reached the Top 5 in both Holland and Germany and was a hit in several other countries. In 1984, it was also recorded by British electropop duo Blancmange, when it became a Top 30 hit. The B-side of the single featuring ABBA's version of this song was 'Cassandra', which has never appeared on CD before now.

The other new track on the double album was 'Under Attack', released a week after the double album, which was a bigger hit in Britain than 'The Day Before You Came', also reaching the Dutch Top 5 and charting in several more countries. It was a completely respectable farewell single from a group which had dominated the world's charts for the previous decade. The contemporary review of the double album in 'New Musical Express' called ABBA "The group who altered the course of pop more than anyone else over the last ten years".

After that, things were quiet on the ABBA front for the rest of the decade, although there had been rumours, that the group had recorded a few other new tracks. Two in particular were mentioned, 'Just Like That' and 'I Am The City'. They were reportedly planned for inclusion in what would have been ABBA's tenth album, which had the appropriate working title of 'Opus 10', but the album was never completed, because both Anni-Frid and Agnetha had embarked on solo careers, and Benny and Björn were working with Tim Rice on the highly successful musical, 'Chess' – several songs from 'Chess' were big international hits, especially 'I Know Him So Well', a duet between Elaine Paige and Barbara Dickson, which topped the UK singles chart in 1985. Now, for the first time ever, one of those two legendary unreleased tracks is available – 'I Am The City' appears on this album, making it an even more essential purchase for the many millions of ABBA fans all round the world.

Frida by Frida

ABBA were once again a sensation in 1992, and not only because of the great success of 'ABBA Gold'. Their peers in the pop world were also not slow to show their admiration for ABBA. Perhaps chief among those who deserve some credit are Erasure, who recorded an EP of cover versions of ABBA's

songs which went to the top of the singles chart in several countries (including much of Europe), while Australian quartet Björn Again's live performances as ABBA's best-known "copy group" brought to a new generation of teenagers the atmosphere of a live concert by ABBA, as well as a large selection of ABBA's songs performed in a very polished manner. It is by all accounts highly unlikely that we will ever see ABBA themselves onstage in concert again, so Björn Again are providing a real service for ABBA fans.

As well as the chart topping EP from Erasure and the record breaking live shows by Björn Again (whose concerts attracted ticket touts, such was their popularity!), the biggest acts in the world also paid tributes by performing ABBA material in their concerts. Roxette, the Swedish duo of Per Gessle and Marie Fredriksson (like half of ABBA), were joined onstage by Anni Frid for an encore of 'Money, Money, Money' when they played in Zurich in January 1992. When Irish Superstars U2 played in Stockholm in July 1992, Benny and Björn joined them onstage for an encore of 'Dancing Queen', which U2 performed many times on their world tour. Like Erasure, Roxette and U2 were simply reflecting their admiration for ABBA, whose records were the soundtracks of their formative years. After 20 years during which ABBA left a permanent mark on the history of pop music, their international popularity shows little sign of diminishing.

John Tobler 1993.

John Tobler is the author of 'ABBA Gold – The Complete Story', the authorised biography of the group, published by Century 22 in 1993.

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